

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A drip tray sanitizing system, comprising:

a pump having an inlet port and an outlet port, wherein the inlet port is in communication with a sanitizing fluid source; and

~~a valve having an inlet port and an outlet port, wherein the inlet port is in communication with a diluent source; and~~

a spray manifold disposed in a drip tray of a product dispenser, the spray manifold having an inlet port in communication with the outlet ports of the pump ~~and the valve~~ and multiple exit ports, wherein, when energized, the pump ~~and the valve~~ delivers ~~a mixture of a sanitizing fluid and a diluent~~ through the outlet ports of the spray manifold and into the drip tray for cleansing or sanitizing purposes.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The drip tray sanitizing system according to claim 1, further comprising: ~~a valve switch used to energize the valve when depressed by an operator~~

a controller in electrical communication with the pump, wherein the controller controls the activation of the pump, thereby controlling the delivery of the sanitizing fluid through the spray manifold and into the drip tray.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The drip tray sanitizing system according to claim 1, further comprising: ~~a pump switch used to energize the pump when depressed by an operator~~

a valve including an inlet port and an outlet port, wherein the inlet port is communication with a diluent source, and the outlet port is in fluid communication with the spray manifold, wherein when energized, the valve delivers a diluent to the spray manifold for delivery to the drip tray for mixing with the sanitizing fluid.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The drip tray sanitizing system according to claim 3, further comprising: wherein the valve switch and the pump switch may be energized substantially simultaneously

a controller in electrical communication with the pump and the valve, wherein the controller controls the activation of the pump and the valve, thereby controlling the delivery of the sanitizing fluid and the diluent through the spray manifold and into the drip tray.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The drip tray sanitizing system according to claim 4 ~~1~~, wherein only the valve is energized to provide a rinsing function.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The drip tray sanitizing system according to claim 3 ~~1~~, further comprising:

a mixing union coupled at a first inlet to the outlet of the pump, at a second inlet to the outlet of the valve, and at an outlet to the inlet port of the spray manifold, whereby the diluent and the sanitizing fluid ~~streams~~ merge before entry into the spray manifold to aid in mixing.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The drip tray sanitizing system according to claim 1, wherein the sanitizing fluid source is a container filled with a sanitizing fluid.

Claim 8 (original): The drip tray sanitizing system according to claim 7, wherein the container is disposable.

Claim 9 (original): The drip tray sanitizing system according to claim 7, wherein the container is refillable.

Claim 10 (currently amended): The drip tray sanitizing system according to claim ~~4~~ 7, wherein the container is coupled to the drip tray sanitizing system with a quick disconnect connector to ease container change out.

Claim 11 (currently amended): The drip tray sanitizing system according to claim 1, further comprising: ~~a controller coupled to the pump and the valve, wherein the controller controls the pump and the valve in the delivery of the mixture of the sanitizing fluid and the diluent through the outlet ports of the spray manifold and into the drip tray for cleansing or sanitizing purposes~~

a pump switch in electrical communication with the controller and the pump, wherein the pump is energized when the pump switch is depressed, thereby delivering sanitizing fluid to drip tray.

Claim 12 (currently amended): The drip tray sanitizing system in claim 4 3, further comprising:

~~a backflow prevention device in communication with the inlet of the valve, such that the diluent cannot move from the valve to the diluent source~~

a valve switch in electrical communication with the controller and the valve, wherein the valve is energized when the valve switch is depressed, thereby delivering diluent to the drip tray.

Claim 13 (currently amended): The drip tray sanitizing system according to claim 4 11, wherein the controller energizes only the valve to rinse the drip tray.

Claim 14 (currently amended): The drip tray sanitizing system according to claim 2 11, wherein the controller energizes only the pump to move sanitizing fluid into the drip tray.

Claim 15 (currently amended): A product dispenser, comprising:

a housing, wherein the housing includes a controller;

a drip tray disposed on the housing;

a drip tray sanitizing system, wherein a spray manifold, disposed in the drip tray, is coupled to a pump in communication with a sanitizing fluid source ~~and a valve in~~

~~communication with a diluent source to deliver a mixture of a sanitizing fluid and a diluent to the~~
drip tray for cleansing or sanitizing purposes when the sanitizing system is energized.

Claim 16 (currently amended): The product dispenser according to claim 15, further
comprising: ~~a valve switch, wherein the valve switch energizes the valve when depressed by an~~
~~operator~~

a controller in electrical communication with the pump, wherein the controller controls
the activation of the pump, thereby controlling the delivery of the sanitizing fluid through the
spray manifold and into the drip tray.

Claim 17 (currently amended): The product dispenser according to claim 15, further
comprising: ~~a pump switch, wherein the pump switch energizes the valve when depressed by an~~
~~operator~~

a valve including an inlet port and an outlet port, wherein the inlet port is communication
with a diluent source, and the outlet port is in fluid communication with the spray manifold,
wherein when energized, the valve delivers a diluent to the spray manifold for delivery to the
drip tray for mixing with the sanitizing fluid and cleansing purposes.

Claim 18 (currently amended): The product dispenser according to claim 17 ~~15~~, further
comprising:

a controller in communication with the valve and the pump, wherein the controller
energizes the valve and the pump to deliver the mixture of the sanitizing fluid and the diluent to
the drip tray.

Claim 19 (original): The beverage dispenser according to claim 15, wherein the drip tray
sanitizing system is internal to the beverage dispenser.

Claim 20 (original): The beverage dispenser according to claim 15, wherein the drip tray sanitizing system is a retrofit into existing product dispenser.

Claim 21 (currently amended): The product dispenser according to claim 17 ~~15~~, wherein the valve and the pump of the drip tray sanitizing system are remotely located from the product dispenser.

Claim 22 (original): The product dispenser according to claim 18, wherein the controller energizes only the valve to provide a drip tray rinse function.

Claim 23 (currently amended): The product dispenser according to claim 16 ~~18~~, wherein the controller energizes only the pump to move sanitizing fluid to the drip tray.

Claim 24 (currently amended): The product dispenser according to claim 18, wherein the controller initiates drip tray sanitizing cleansing routines ~~are initiated by the controller~~ at a predetermined intervals ~~time~~.

Claims 25-36 (canceled).